

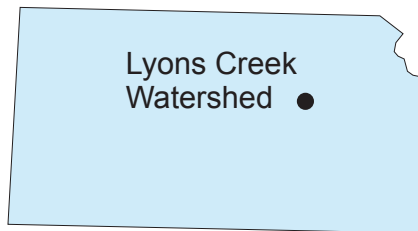
## Watershed Operations

November 2009

## Lyons Creek Watershed, Kansas

### Introduction

In rural Kansas, flooding is a frequent threat to farms and small communities. Lives and livelihoods are seriously impacted, and rebuilding efforts can strain local economies. Lyons Creek Site 15, a flood control dam, will provide needed protection to critical resources, such as agricultural land, roads, and bridges.



Lyons Creek Watershed is located in Morris County, Kansas.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.

### Project Description

- **Location:** Morris County, 1st Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$1,248,000
- **Sponsor Funding:** \$40,000

Lyons Creek Site 15, a flood control dam, will provide protection from massive damage that is caused by heavy rains to agricultural land, roads, and rural communities. The dam is one of 17 planned for the Lyons Creek Watershed; 14 have already been built.

### Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Lyons Creek Watershed Joint District No. 41
- Dickinson County Conservation District
- Geary County Conservation District
- Marion County Conservation District
- Morris County Conservation District
- City of Herington

Lyons Creek flows out of its banks and emerging crop seedlings covered by floodwaters will not survive. Floodwaters cause other problems too such as soil erosion, scouring, sedimentation, and other water quality concerns.

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### Benefits

When completed, the dam will provide the community over \$33,000 in average annual flood protection benefits. Fifteen miles of stream corridor, with a floodplain that encompasses 45 farms and ranches and approximately 2,700 acres of agricultural lands, will benefit directly from improved flood protection.



Lyons Creek is out of its banks destroying newly planted crops. The Lyons Creek #15 dam will allow farmers to get their crops to market by reducing the threat of flooding in the fall.



Protected from flooding, fields like this produce bountiful yields.

***Helping People Help the Land***

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